

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A core for a cleaning sponge roller, said core being in a substantially cylindrical shape comprising:

a bore extending in an axial direction and a plurality of small holes communicating between said bore and a circumferential outer surface of the core, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

a diameter of said bore is 10 mm or more, ~~[[and]]~~

a diameter of said small holes is 2.5 mm or more, and

a total of cross-sectional areas of the openings of the plurality of the small holes is larger than a cross-sectional area of the bore.

Claim 2 (currently amended): A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of small holes are distributed both in a circumferential direction and in an axial direction of said core and aligned along straight lines in the axial direction; ~~[[,]]~~

small holes in one of the straight lines and small holes in a straight line adjacent to said one of the straight lines are arranged on one and the same circumference of the core; ~~[[,]]~~ and

grooves recessed in the circumferential outer surface of said core extend in the axial direction of said core, and said small holes open into said grooves.

Claim 3 (original): A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in claim 2, wherein the number of the small holes opening into one groove is 2 to 5.

Claim 4 (original): A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in claim 3, wherein the number of the small holes opening into one groove in the axial direction of said core takes a repeat pattern of 2, 3, or 4, or a pattern of 2 and 3, 2 and 4, or 3 and 4.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in ~~claims~~ claim 3 [[or 4]], wherein, in the circumferential direction of said core, ~~either~~ four or six grooves are positioned at even intervals, and different numbers of the small holes open into the adjacent grooves, where the number of the small holes takes a repeat pattern in the circumferential direction of the core.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 5]], wherein [[a]] at least one flange ~~or flanges~~ are attached either to one end or to both ends of said core.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 6]], wherein the diameter of said bore is 10 mm to 20 mm, [[and]] the diameter of said small holes is 2.5 mm to 5 mm, and a total of the cross-sectional areas of the openings of all the small holes is larger than the cross-sectional area of the bore.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A core for a cleaning sponge roller as in ~~any of claims~~ claim 1 [[to 7]], wherein a total of the cross-sectional areas of the openings of all the small holes is 1.2 to 5 times larger than the cross-sectional area of the bore.